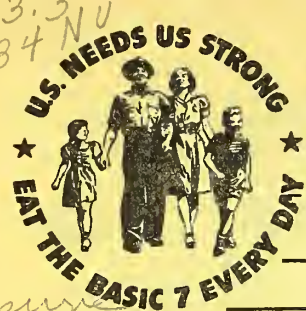


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USDA REORGANIZATION

You have doubtless read in the newspapers something about the progress which has been made in integrating the WFA activities with the peacetime operations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The change in the masthead of this News Letter indicates the newly created administrative agency into which the nutrition program has been placed. There has been established a Food Distribution Programs Branch with Mr. Paul C. Stark as Director. It includes, in addition to the nutrition program, Industrial Feeding, School Lunch, Civilian Food Requirements, and related subjects. In this general framework, the nutrition program will continue to operate as in the past. The responsibility for coordinating the food and nutrition programs of other Federal agencies is retained and in the field will work with and through State Nutrition Committees just as it has in the past.

FACTS ABOUT THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES

FAO is the first of the permanent new United Nations organizations to be launched after the war; invitations to its first conference, scheduled for October 16 in Quebec, Canada, were sent to 44 governments by the Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture.

First Conference Especially Important

The Commission will formally establish FAO, appoint the Director-General, and make plans for the early work of the organization.

This first conference will be especially important not only because it will set up the first of the United Nations specialized organizations but because FAO will begin work in the period of transition from war to peace. Many countries will be concerned with the problem of readjusting their agriculture. Institutions and policies will be in a state of flux. New international arrangements will be in the making, and it will be easy for governments to start in new directions before

old ways of thought and action become reestablished.

Functions of FAO

According to Article I of the FAO Constitution:

- "1. The Organization shall collect, analyze, interpret, and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food, and agriculture.
- "2. The Organization shall promote and, where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to:
 - a. Scientific, technological, social, and economic research relating to nutrition, food, and agriculture;
 - b. The improvement of education and administration relating to nutrition, food, and agriculture, and the spread of public knowledge of nutritional and agricultural science and practice;
 - c. The conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production;
 - d. The improvement of the processing, marketing, and distribution of food and agricultural products;
 - e. The adoption of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit, national and international;
 - f. The adoption of international policies with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements.
- "3. It shall also be the function of the Organization:
 - a. To furnish such technical assistance as governments may request;
 - b. To organize, in cooperation with the governments concerned, such missions as may be needed to assist them to fulfill the obligations arising from their acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture; and
 - c. Generally to take all necessary and appropriate action to implement the purposes of the Organization as set forth in the Preamble."

How FAO Will Go About Its Work

The policy-making body of the FAO is the Conference, which is composed of one representative from each member nation. Each nation has one vote in the Conference, which will meet at least once each year. An Executive Committee of nine to fifteen members will act for the Conference between sessions.

A Director-General appointed by the Conference will direct the work of the FAO under the general supervision of the Executive Committee. He will be assisted by an international technical staff and by standing advisory committees on which world experts will serve.

In accepting the FAO constitution, member governments agree to report periodically to one another on the progress made toward achieving the organization's purposes. These reports will furnish information on world production and markets and on the effects of national policies in agriculture, nutrition and food management, forestry, and fisheries. This information will in turn be the basis for proposals for joint action.

Nations will expect advice and information from FAO which will help them to develop their agricultural, forestry, and fisheries resources, to improve their marketing and distribution services, and to raise the nutritional levels and standards of living of their people. In particular, FAO will be concerned with spreading scientific knowledge in all these fields and with helping to get this knowledge more widely and effectively used.

FAO will actively encourage research. It will help to arrange collaboration between scientific institutions in all of its principal fields and to keep workers informed of technical developments everywhere. Advances in the more highly developed countries can be applied with great benefit in the less developed regions. FAO will be equipped on request to send out expert missions to make surveys and help get new developments started. It will assist in making arrangements for students to go abroad for study. It will emphasize the development and improvement of extension services to bring knowledge of improved farming methods, including soil and water conservation, to producers, and it will work for rural betterment and more widespread understanding of nutrition and good food management.

In a word, FAO will try to link the known needs of people for food and other products more directly with the means

for satisfying these needs - modern methods of production, processing, and distribution - on the theory that this is the way to cure some of the world's worst economic ills, including the hunger and extreme poverty which are among the predisposing causes of war.

The work will not be easy, and will call for long-continued effort and international good will and understanding.

But this is equally true of the work of all of the United Nations organizations.

FAO's Place in the International Set-Up

By itself, FAO could make only a limited contribution toward freedom from want and the achievement of an expanding world economy. But it will begin to work in an atmosphere of international cooperation and so must be viewed in this setting. The constitution provides for FAO to become a part of the United Nations Organization, where it will take its place under the Social and Economic Council among the other international organizations with specialized responsibilities. FAO will thus work closely with the organizations concerned with commerce and trade, credit, monetary stabilization, labor, health, education, and other matters vital to the welfare of nations. The success of FAO will depend in large part on the success of the whole United Nations effort looking toward international security, an expanding world economy, full employment, adequate buying power, and freer international trade.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

MAINE.—As a result of the State Nutrition Committee's special interest in better nutrition for Maine children, the Executive Secretary, under the direction of the committee and with the cooperation of the Department of Education, spent much of her time in furthering the school lunch program within the State.

At the close of the school year the State Department of Health devoted a staff meeting to consideration of the organization and operation of the school lunch program. The Executive Secretary was invited to attend the meeting and present information about school lunch work in the State. She also participated in the discussion which followed. Interest was high on the part of the State Health Department administrative officers and nursing consultants who were present. Special consideration was

given to ways district and county field nurses and sanitation engineers might cooperate in the program.

FLORIDA.—Of the many good stories which have been received at this office about the school lunch program the one recently told by the Nutrition Consultant for the Florida State Board of Health is unique. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that she tells about a functioning school garden, which is operated as part of the school program. She says, "As for the garden, it is a thing of beauty! The school grounds are too dry so the school superintendent developed a plot of muck-land on a nearby lake. The pupils work in the garden and when they have finished they go in swimming or take a sail in the boat they have made under the direction of this same superintendent.

"They have grown a good variety of vegetables in sufficient amounts to be worth while. Every child has to keep a record of the operations of his garden plot, how much he spends and how much he receives from the sale of produce. Arithmetic with a purpose!

"Practically all of the produce of the school gardens is purchased by the manager of the school lunch. That which is not consumed in its fresh state is conserved for future use."

This is a report from the Geneva School in Seminole County. It is encouraging to folks who still believe a school garden can be a real part not only of the school lunch program, but also of the general education program.

COLORADO.—The Film Committee of the Colorado Nutrition Council has met nine times from March 1944 to June 1945 to review films and to prepare lists of good films on nutrition which are readily available in the State. The committee has compiled a card file with pertinent information about all films reviewed. Each card contains: A brief description of the film, where it is available, the rental charges, the size and type, the running time, and comments as to the use and suitability of the film for different audiences.

During the past year, the committee has issued three bulletins of recommended films on nutrition. A brief summary of each film has been given as well as the size, the type, the running time, and the place where each film may be obtained. Suggestions for the use and care of the films were included. These lists were mimeographed by the executive

secretary and sent to the mailing list of the Council. The film committee is now compiling a list of names or agents in Colorado having 16-mm. sound projection machines.

Arrangements have been made for the payment, by the Colorado Nutrition Council, of service charges on nutrition films which are ordered by an officer of any county nutrition committee. The film committee feels that this makes possible wider use of the films, and recommends that this service be continued.

SOUTH DAKOTA.—Last year a good many of the workers that came into South Dakota missed the kind of meals they were used to eating at home! This year to see that "it won't happen again" the Farm Labor Representatives asked the Nutrition Committee for help. The Nutrition Committee tested recipes, prepared leaflets, and arranged demonstrations which were given at the time of the District Extension Conference. Since many of the workers came from Mexico, the folks who hired them were taught how to prepare Mexican dishes. In some sections of the State much of the labor was from Southern States and recognizing that there is a difference in food habits in the South and North, a few things about southern cookery were also demonstrated.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The Demonstration Committee of the Massachusetts State Nutrition Committee formulated plans for a series of food demonstrations on "Proteins Other Than Meat," which were held last June. The cooperation of utility company home economists in 17 different cities and towns was obtained to conduct the demonstrations.

The State Nutrition Committee provided material for use of the demonstrators including recipes, menus, demonstration outlines, and subject matter for nutrition talks.

The demonstrations emphasized the use of cottage cheese, fish, dried peas and beans, and nuts. Three dishes were included which were made with cottage cheese—a hot main dish, a salad, and a dessert.

The executive secretary assisted the Demonstration Committee in promoting this project.

Publicity was arranged through local nutrition committees and the Massachusetts radio programs of the then War Food Administration.

PUERTO RICO.—The Puerto Rico Nutrition Committee made plans to continue its broad educational program. Activities will include: A monthly radio program through the "Actualidad Agrícola"; the continuance of its newsletter "Nutrición al Día"; and a series of nutrition conferences for lay and professional groups in several towns in Puerto Rico. Intensive use of the new technicolor nutrition film, "Querer Es-Poder" by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in close cooperation with the Nutrition Committee, is planned. The committee will continue to emphasize the use of enriched flour and bread, now that legislation has been enacted. In order to maintain closer contact between the Puerto Rico Nutrition Committee and the local committees, every month several of the presidents of local committees will be invited to attend the meeting of the Insular Committee.

OHIO.—In Lucas County the Nutrition Committee sponsored a School Lunchroom Institute in an effort to promote better school lunchroom programs in the county. School board members, home economics teachers, principals, cooks, and interested patrons were invited. The meeting was scheduled for the late afternoon and evening. A typical school lunch was served in the cafeteria. Complimentary tickets were given to all cooks who attended. Talks were given on the need of a good school lunch program, planning the school lunch, proper sanitation for the school lunchroom, and canning for the school lunch. This meeting was attended by 125 people and a fine interest was shown throughout the entire program.

CALIFORNIA.—As a follow-up of the project reported in the May 1945 News Letter, the Los Angeles Committee of

Nutritionists and Home Economists and Teachers, who were responsible for the excellent Nutrition Institute for the parochial teachers in Los Angeles, met again to form a questionnaire for the parochial teachers. The questionnaire will serve as a further report of the results and influence of the Nutrition Institute and will help to guide the committee in planning further help to the teachers. (One questionnaire is directed to the school administrators; the other one to the teachers.)

NEBRASKA.—Plans were started in Nebraska whereby agencies would include in their annual meetings some information on community organization from the standpoint of "working together in communities."

NEW MATERIAL (Sample not enclosed.)

"A DAY'S PATTERN FOR GOOD EATING"
FROM THE BASIC 7.—A poster designed as a companion piece to the "Food Guide" is now available for distribution. Size 22 x 28 inches, six colors. Copies may be obtained from the Office of Information, USDA.

Sincerely yours,

M L Wilson
M. L. Wilson, Chief
Nutrition Programs

W H Sebrell
W. H. Sebrell, Associate Chief
Nutrition Programs